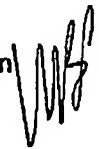


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**DATE:** November 10, 2004  
**FILE NO:** WEAT/0526.P1  
**TO:** Examiner William P. Neuder  
**FAX NO:** 703/872-9306  
**COMPANY:** USPTO  
**FROM:** William B. Patterson   
**PAGE(S) with cover:** 6  
**ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW?** ☐ YES ☒ NO

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**U.S. SERIAL NO.:** 10/717,422  
**FILING DATE:** November 19, 2003  
**INVENTOR:** William Banning Vail, III  
**EXAMINER:** William P. Neuder  
**GROUP ART UNIT:** 3672  
**CONFIRMATION NO.:** 7770

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316417\_1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Vail III

**Serial No.: 10/717,422**

**Filed: November 19, 2003**

**Confirmation No.: 7770**

**For: Methods and Apparatus for  
Cementing Drill Strings in Place  
for One Pass Drilling and  
Completion of Oil and Gas Wells**

**Group Art Unit: 3672**

**Examiner:** William P. Neuder

**Customer No.: 36735**

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**Dear Sir:**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:**

CERTIFICATE OF FAX  
37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 703/872-9308 to the attention of Examiner William P. Neuder on the date below:

10 NOV 2 1991 *William P. Neuder*  
Date Signature